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Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
 the Borough of Southwold.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1955.

The statistics for the year are substantially the same as in 1954. The adjusted birth rate compares very favourably with the National Average and the adjusted death rate is well below the national figure. The actual causes of death are much as hitherto for and need no special comment.

Of the various matters which required attention from the health aspect within the Borough during the year under review, the most important was of course the Housing Survey. This presented quite unusual problems, as the picturesque nature of much of the property concerned would not permit any thought of demolition. Much of this property, whilst not adequate for large families, does provide quite suitable homes for childless couples, or old people living on their own, and I am pleased to report that no drastic recommendations regarding demolition were found to be necessary. 12 houses only were scheduled for demolition within the next five years, and 41 were found to require repairs to bring them up to standard.

The installation of the new chlorinating plant by the Water Company was completed, and samples taken since by the Sanitary Inspector have proved satisfactory.

The possibility of carrying out Controlled Tipping on Buss Creek was investigated during the year. Due to a variety of difficulties such as the extent of the site and the lack of readily available covering material, it was decided not to proceed with the project. The existing arrangements for the disposal of household refuse are fairly satisfactory at present at any rate.

Medical Officer of Health Annual Report 1955 (Contd).

A rapid development of the Caravan and Camping Site is taking place, and additional sanitary accommodation will be required in the near future. This is a matter which is under consideration and suggestions for alleviating the present difficulties will be made in due course.

There were only nineteen cases of Infectious Disease notified within the Borough during the year. It is difficult to believe that 8 cases of measles and 4 of whooping cough, represents the sum total of these infections within the Borough. It is true of course that when these infections are mild, the family doctor is not called in and no notification takes place. Again immunisation against whooping cough is now extensively carried out and this may account for the low figure shown.

It might be opportune to remind those doctors who practice in the Borough, that the notification of infectious disease is obligatory. It is very essential that the notification of infectious disease should be accurately carried out, as otherwise it is quite impossible to assess the efficiency of the protective measures which are now being tried out on a wide scale. We shall have to wait until next year, to ascertain whether the figures shown for infectious disease this year represent a true decrease in the Borough, or whether they do in fact, give a quite inadequate picture of the real position.

Details of the sanitary work carried out during the year are shown in the Sanitary Inspector's report which is included herewith.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health Annual Report 1905 (Contd.)

A rapid development of the Garter and Garter Side is taking place, and medical assistance will be required in the near future. This is a matter which is under consideration and suggestions for alleviating the present difficulties will be made in due season.

There were only nineteen cases of infectious diseases notified within the Borough during the year. It is difficult to believe that a case of measles and 4 of whom were notified. The sum total of these infections within the Borough is in fact of course that when these infections are mild, the family doctor is not called in and no notification takes place. Again notification against whooping cough is not extensively carried out and this may account for the low figure shown.

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practised in the Borough, and the notification of infectious diseases is not carried out, and otherwise it is not possible to record the notification of whooping cough and being tried out on a wide scale. The figures shown for infectious diseases in this year represent a true picture in the Borough, or whether they do in fact, give a quite inaccurate picture of the real position.

Details of the sanitary work carried out during the year are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report which is included herewith.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Yours faithfully,
Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR D. GOS.

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Registrar-General's estimated population (mid-1955)2,440.
 Number of inhabited houses as at 31st. December, 1955.....1,213.
 Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1955.....£24,125.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

| | <u>Totals</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| LIVE BIRTHS Legitimate | 24 | 15 | 9 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| | — | — | — |
| | <u>26</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>10</u> |
| | | | |
| | <u>Southwold.</u> | <u>Comparative figure</u> <u>for England & Wales.</u> | |
| BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1955 | 10.5 (Crude) 15.9 (Adjusted) | 15.0 | |
| STILLBIRTHS | Nil | | |
| DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1955 | 15.9 (Crude) 9.2 (Adjusted) | 11.7 | |
| DEATHS OF INFANTS under ONE year of age | Nil. | | |

CAUSES OF DEATH

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | - | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | - | 2 | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Vascular lesions of Nervous System | - | 6 | 6 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other heart diseases | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Other circulatory disease | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 2 | - | 2 |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | - | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital malformation | 1 | - | 1 |
| Other defined and ill defined diseases | - | 3 | 3 |
| Accidents (non vehicle) | - | 1 | 1 |
| | <u>13</u> | <u>26</u> | <u>39</u> |

COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

| | <u>1951</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1953</u> | <u>1954</u> | <u>1955</u> | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Population | 2,441 | 2,419 | 2,407 | 2,450 | 2,440 | |
| Births | 21 | 28 | 30 | 20 | 26 | |
| Birth rate per 1,000 | 8.6 | 11.2 | 12.55 | 12.5 | 10.5 | Crude |
| | | | | | 15.9 | Adjusted |
| Deaths | 45 | 37 | 32 | 38 | 39 | |
| Death rate per 1,000 | 18.4 | 12.4 | 13.9 | 8.9 | 15.9 | Crude |
| | | | | | 9.2 | Adjusted |
| Infant deaths | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | |
| Infant Mortality rate | | | | | | |
| per 1,000 live births | 95.2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year compared with 1954:-

| | <u>1955</u> | <u>1954</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Measles | 8 | 92 |
| Pneumonia | 5 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | 4 | 37 |
| Dysentery | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis | 1 | 1 |

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Southwold.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions in the Borough for the year 1955.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year three samples of water have been taken from the mains supply, two of which were submitted for bacteriological analysis, and the third for chemical analysis. All samples proved to be highly satisfactory.

SEWERAGE.

1. Caravan Site Outfall Sewer.

A section of 12" diameter salt glazed stoneware sewer between the last manhole on the grass verge to the South of Ferry Road and the point of discharge into the River Blyth, was taken up and a new length of sewer was laid on a reinforced concrete foundation. The work was carried out under considerable difficulty and completed on 4th. June, 1955.

2. North Road Pumping Station.

A fracture occurred on the section of case iron rising main which passes through the concrete wall of the building. The defective section was removed and a new length of main fitted.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

All house refuse is collected by contract, and Messrs. May Bros. carry out their work with entire satisfaction.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report 1955 (Contd).

The refuse is tipped and kept under control by the attendant who is employed for three and a half days per week on this work.

CONDEMNED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

149 lbs. beef were condemned during the year, due to bone taint. One lamb carcass (36 lbs.) imported from New Zealand was condemned due to general putrefaction.

The following tinned and other foods were also condemned:-

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Corned beef | 7 lbs. 8 ozs. |
| Luncheon meat | 15 lbs. 12 ozs. |
| Ox tongue | 6 lbs. |

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS AND BAKERIES.

These have been found to be generally satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No contraventions of the Factory Act have been reported.

DAIRIES AND RETAIL PURVEYORS OF MILK.

The supplementary licences for the sale of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk respectively were issued by your Council, also three Dealers licences authorising the use of the special designations Tuberculin Tested (1) and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) (2).

The two local dairies are kept in good condition.

Of the various food premises in the town, ten were the subject of inspections by the sanitary inspector, of these, one was found to be unsatisfactory, but the defect was remedied without formal notice being given.

Fifteen shops were inspected during the year and no contraventions of the Shops Act were found.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report 1955 (Contd).

HOUSING.

New Houses.

The remaining four 'two bedroom, semi-detached' houses out of a total of ten erected in Cautley Road and Foster Close were completed by your Council during the year. Eight new houses were erected by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants.

Improvement Grants in respect of six private dwelling-houses were made by your Council under Section 20, Housing Act, 1949.

Housing Survey.

In accordance with instructions contained in Circular 55/54 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Medical Officer of Health and myself carried out a survey of properties within the Borough, the report of which was approved at a joint meeting of the Public Health and Highways and Housing Committees held on 25th. August, 1955.

12 houses were scheduled for demolition within the next five years and 41 were scheduled as requiring repairs in order to bring them up to the necessary standard of fitness.

C. R. DRIVER.

Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1956.

